

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for changing the delivery point of an item while the item is en route, comprising:
 - determining a first delivery point of the item;
 - notifying, based on the first delivery point, a recipient that the item is en route;
 - notifying, based on an identifier of a sender, the sender that the item is en route;
 - accepting at least one instruction designating a second delivery point; and
 - delivering the item to the second delivery point.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein accepting the at least one instruction comprises accepting at least one instruction from the recipient.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein accepting at least one instruction designating a second delivery point comprises:
 - ~~notifying a sender of the item; and~~
 - allowing the sender to specify that the item is to be delivered to the second delivery point.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein delivering the item to the second delivery point comprises:

notifying the sender, if actual delivery is made; and
requesting disposition instructions from the sender, if delivery was not
made.

5. (Currently Amended) A method for changing the delivery point of an item while the item is en route, comprising:

determining a first delivery point of the item;
notifying a sender recipient that the item is en route;
~~allowing the sender~~ receiving, from the recipient, an instruction specifying
to specify that the item is to be delivered to a second delivery point;
confirming the instruction to deliver the item to the second delivery point
by notifying a sender of the second delivery point;
accepting the second delivery point from the sender; and
delivering the item to the second delivery point.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for handling an undeliverable item, comprising:

~~changing a delivery point of an item while the item is en route;~~
notifying a sender of ~~[[the]]~~ an item that the item is undeliverable;
accepting a disposition instruction from the sender, after the notifying;
changing a delivery point of the item while the item is en route after
accepting the disposition instruction; and
handling the item according to the disposition instruction.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the disposition instruction is an instruction to return the item to the sender.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the disposition instruction is an instruction to auction the item.
9. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the disposition instruction is an instruction to donate the item.
10. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the disposition instruction is an instruction to dispose of the item.
11. (Currently Amended) A system for changing the delivery point of an item while the item is en route, comprising:
 - means for determining a first delivery point of the item;
 - means for notifying, based on the first delivery point, a recipient that the item is en route;
 - means for notifying a sender, based on an identifier of the sender, that the item is en route;
 - means for accepting a second delivery point from the recipient; and
 - means for delivering the item to the second delivery point.
12. (Currently Amended) A system for changing the delivery point of an item including a unique identifier while the item is en route, comprising:
 - means for determining a first delivery point of the item;
 - means for notifying a sender that the item is en route based on the unique identifier;

means for ~~allowing the sender~~ receiving from a recipient an instruction specifying to specify that the item is to be delivered to a second delivery point, the instruction including the unique identifier;

means for accepting the second delivery point from the sender; and

means for delivering the item to the second delivery point.

13. (Currently Amended) A system for handling an undeliverable item, comprising:

~~means for changing a delivery point of an item while the item is en route;~~

means for notifying a sender of ~~[[the]]~~ an item that the item is undeliverable;

means for accepting a disposition instruction from the sender after the notifying;

means for changing a delivery point of the item while the item is en route after accepting the disposition instruction; and

means for handling the item according to the disposition instruction.

14. (Currently Amended) A method to flexibly deliver an item, comprising:

determining a first delivery point of the item;

providing a notification to indicate that the item is en route to the first delivery point;

conditionally accepting a second delivery point of the item, comprising requesting, from the sender, an approval of the second delivery point; and

delivering the item to one of the first delivery point and second delivery point based on the conditional acceptance of the second delivery point.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising:
providing information to indicate that the item was delivered to the one of
the first delivery point and second delivery point.
16. (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising:
providing information to indicate that the item was not delivered, when the
first delivery point and second delivery point are undeliverable.
17. (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising:
accepting at least one additional delivery point for the item; and
delivering the item to the at least one additional delivery point.
18. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising:
providing at least one additional notification based on delivery of the item
to the at least one additional delivery point.
19. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein determining a first delivery point of
the item comprises capturing an image of the item.
20. (Cancelled).
21. (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising:
determining at least one characteristic of the item.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein providing the notification to indicate that the item is en route to the first delivery point includes information indicating the at least one characteristic of the item.
23. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein determining the at least one characteristic of the item comprises determining a weight of the item.
24. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein determining the at least one characteristic of the item comprises determining a size of the item.
25. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein determining the at least one characteristic of the item comprises capturing an image of the item.
26. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein providing the notification to indicate that the item is en route to the first delivery point comprises providing information to indicate a time the item will arrive at the first delivery point.
27. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein conditionally accepting the second delivery point of the item comprises accepting a specified time for the item to arrive.
28. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein conditionally accepting a second delivery point of the item is based on verifying an identity of a recipient for the item.

29. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein conditionally accepting a second delivery point of the item is based on receiving an approval from a sender of the item.

30. (Currently Amended) A system for flexible delivery of an item, comprising:

means for determining a first delivery point of the item;

means for providing a notification to indicate that the item is en route to the first delivery point;

means for conditionally accepting a second delivery point of the item,

comprising requesting, from the sender, an approval of the second delivery point; and

means for delivering the item to one of the first delivery point and second delivery point based on the conditional acceptance of the second delivery point.

31. (New) The system of claim 12, wherein the unique identifier is a bar code supplied by the sender.

32. (New) A method for changing the delivery point of an item while the item is en route, comprising:

storing information about the contents of the item;

providing the information to a delivery service provider when a batch of items that includes the item are shipped;

determining a first delivery point of the item;

notifying, based on the first delivery point, a recipient that the item is en route;

accepting at least one instruction designating a second delivery point; and

delivering the item to the second delivery point.

33. (New) A method for changing the delivery point of an item while the item is en route, comprising:

determining a first delivery point of the item;

notifying a recipient that the item is en route by sending the recipient an image of the item;

accepting at least one instruction designating a second delivery point; and

delivering the item to the second delivery point.